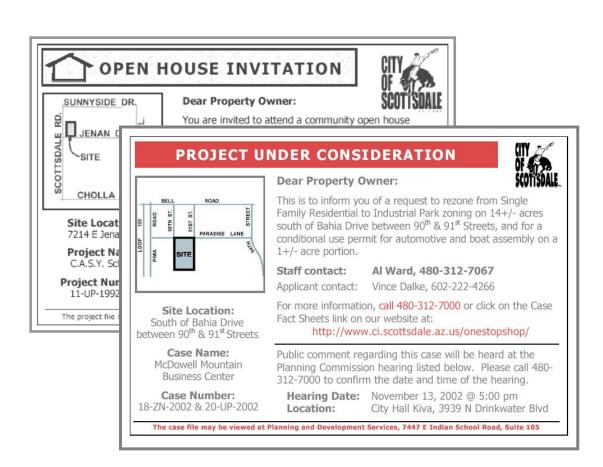


## **On-line Postcards**



Planning and Development Services

#### Introduction

In an ongoing effort to notify property owners of proposed development in their area, Current Planning Services staff has reformatted the 300-foot notifications for non-city initiated projects. Instead of the traditional envelope notices, a first class "user-friendly" postcard is now sent to the individual property owners. As of July 1, 2002, postcards are sent to property owners for all Board of Adjustment, Development Review Board, Planning Commission, and City Council cases.

Postcards are also utilized in notifying property owners of recently submitted cases and scheduled open houses.

This manual acts as an introductory step-by-step guide to creating both the hearing and open house postcard. While this reference manual is itself a valuable teaching aid, it refers to many Scottsdale-specific programs that are used to create our postcards. Information on these programs is provided in separate documentation.

## **Creating a Postcard**

The Community Development System (CDS) was created by the City of Scottsdale Geographic Information Systems team in an attempt to create a "cradle-to-grave" system incorporating complete information on all development projects that have been submitted to the City's Planning and Development Services department. The postcards are created using the CDS application, allowing for an automation and standardization of the process – using Word templates and typing in the custom information is also a viable method for using the postcard program.

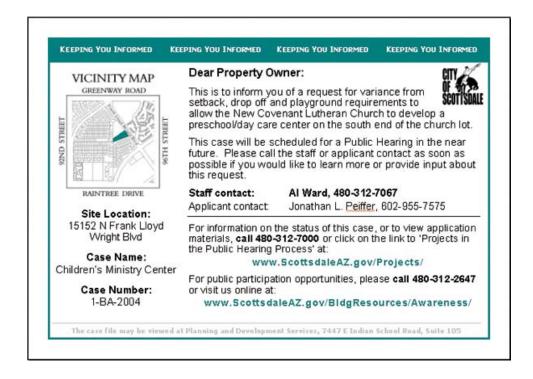
The postcard templates are saved in the CDS system, and contain standard language and layout information; when the user creates a postcard, CDS pulls the template and imports the case information (location, case number, description, etc. – shown as gray boxes in the graphic below). Even though the majority of the postcard is either auto filled or standard language, the entire document can be edited to adjust spacing, layout, etc.

	Dear Property (	Owner:	SCOTI	
Size: 1.6" x 1.6"	This is to inform you of a request for approval of			
	Staff contact:  Applicant contact:			
	For more information, call 480-312-7000 or click on th link to 'Projects in the Public Hearing Process' at:			
	http://www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov/projects/			
Site Location:	Public comment regarding this case will be heard at the C Council hearing listed below. Please call 480-312-7000 to confirm the date and time of the hearing.			
Case Name:	Hearing Date:	September 23, 2002 @ 5:00	P.M.	
Case Number:	Location:	City Hall Kiva, 3939 N. Drink	water Bl	

#### **Postcard Maps**

Once the postcard content has been edited (and saved), a map is added. Scottsdale uses several different methods to create the maps, depending upon the postcard type and the time allowed.

For our standard hearing date postcards, a staff member creates customized maps. The recently added "Early Notification Postcard" has different content and a slightly different map from our standard hearing date postcards; these postcards are sent out within 24 hours of submittal. The vicinity maps for these postcards are pre-drawn quarter-section maps with the general location marked by drawing a simple box. This allows for the quick turn-around time.



## **Making Labels**

The City of Scottsdale uses the LIS program to create the postcard mailing labels. Every Municipality has their own programs or methods for compiling mailing labels (we highly recommend that you use your GIS layers), so we will skip the "how to create" process and focus on the formatting issues that arise from the USPS uploading process.

One note, before we continue, on the level of data integrity needed for your labels. The City of Scottsdale is fortunate enough to be able to use the Maricopa County Assessor's data. Not having control over the data does limit some functionality, but the County data is fairly reliable; that is not the case in all areas. We have spoken to several municipalities, and every one gets their mailing labels in a slightly different manner – one city didn't mail their notices at all, but instead had a staff member hand deliver all their notifications. Whether you create your own db or import someone else's, mail to owner or tenants, update your system once a year or more frequently – all are issues that will need to be discussed prior to implementing this system. If you already have a reliable db for labels, you are a giant step ahead.



#### Mailing list Requirements:

Due to the Post Office uploading mechanism, there are several formatting requirements that must be met. Your labels system must be able to export the labels file in a manner that is readable to the Post Office system.

 Your mail list must contain a header record containing at least 5 header fields. (A field is one element of a record. A record is a group of related

fields.) Header fields identify each element of your address records (i.e., Name, Address, City, State, ZIP). The header record must be the first record in the table/list.

Your mail list must contain at least one address record. There is no limit,
 however, to the number of address records in your mail list.

Header Field	ls	<u> </u>			
	Name	Address	City	State	ZIP
Address Records	Joe Sn	nith 21 Big Street	Grand City	New Jersey	55555
	Jane Jo	ones 333 Idle Way	Leeson	Idaho	44444

- The maximum length of any mail list field is 60 characters.
- There may be no linked text or graphics in a mail list.

Scottsdale has found that the best format for uploading, in term of ease of use and percentage of errors, is an Excel file. This tends to decrease the number of uploading and compatibility errors that occur.

# **Uploading to USPS Site**

The Post Office has recently partnered with Poste Digital to take over the processing of their postcard services. You will still need to set up a log-in and password at the Post Office web site (<a href="http://www.usps.com/mailingonline/">http://www.usps.com/mailingonline/</a>), but you will then be routed to the Poste Digital interface.

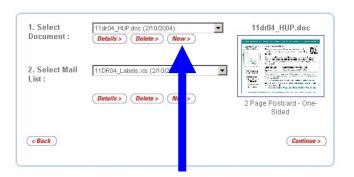


The following steps will walk you through the **Express** process. There is a Stepby-Step process that we highly recommend you use the first few times you try the system.

**Step #1:** Log on to the UPSP web site. Click on Express.



Step #2: Select your document.



## Acceptable document formats are:

- Adobe® Portable Document Format (PDF) 5 or below
- Adobe® Postscript Format (PS)
- Microsoft® Word 6, 95, 97, or 2000
- Encapsulated Postscript (EPS)

Refer to the USPS website help feature for further assistance.

**Step #3:** Select your Document Type. This program supports several types of mail – the City of Scottsdale postcards are one-sided postcards.

#### 1. Select Document Type

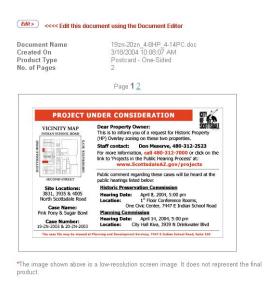
Select the document type you want to create

- C Booklet Address on Back What is this?
- C Booklet Address on Front What is this?
- C Booklet Self Mailer What is this?
- C Flyer (Self-Mailer) What is this?
- C Letter 8.5x11 Address on First Page What is this?
- C Letter 8.5x11 Separate Address Page What is this?
- C Letter 8.5x14 Address on First Page What is this?
- C Letter 8.5x14 Separate Address Page What is this?
- C Postcard Large What is this?
- O Postcard One-Sided What is this?
- C Postcard Two-Sided What is this?

**Step #4:** Browse to locate the document you wish to use and name your document, this will help you in the future to locate specifics on your mailing. It helps to have a standard naming convention that you use each time.



**Step #5:** Confirm your document.



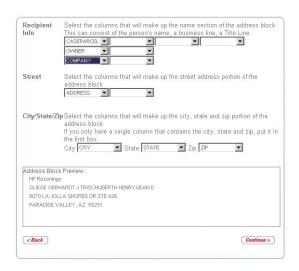
**Step #6:** Select your mailing list by clicking on the new button to the right of the mailing list options.

Acceptable mailing list formats are:

- ASCII comma or tab delimited (\*.csv or \*.tab)
- Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Access
   95, 97, or 2000\*
- Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Excel 95, 97, or 2000\*

Refer to the USPS website help feature for further assistance.

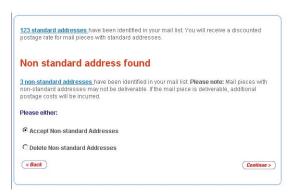
Step #7: Define your label layout (which fields should go where).



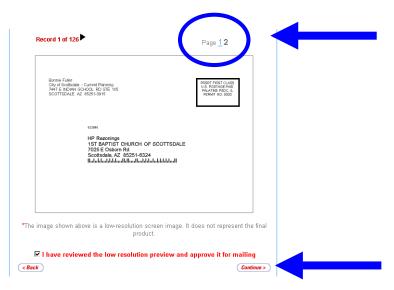
This message appears after submitting your mailing list, this simply tells you what the computer is doing.

Processing	
seconds to re	while we process your request. The screen will refresh every few flect an updated status. <u>If your screen does not refresh automatically,</u> fresh it. It should not take more than a few minutes.

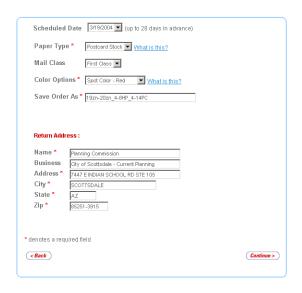
**Step #8:** Some of your addresses may not be able to be verified by USPS; these are referred to as non-standard addresses. (We always accept them so the Post Office can attempt a delivery.) The pieces will have slightly higher postage.



**Step #9.** Verify your postcard – front and back. This is your LAST CHANCE to catch any errors.



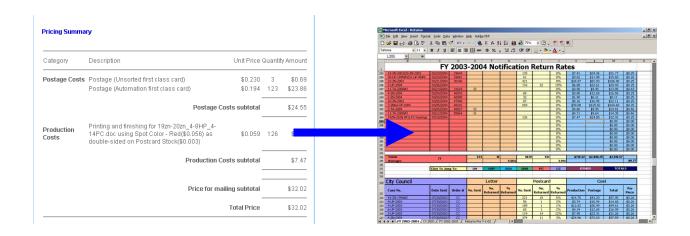
**Step 10.** Define your print settings (including print date) and name your order. Scottsdale uses First Class on all our mailings; spot color defined by the postcard type; and our standard naming convention [case number]\_[hearing date & type] – example: 5ba04\_4-7BOA.



**Step #11:** Verify your order summary. Make sure that the order, document and mailing list all have the same reference (same case, hearing date and hearing type). Also check that the color and return address matches the hearing type.

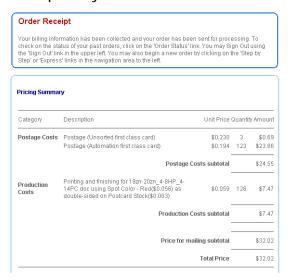


**Step #12:** We keep a separate tracking sheet for internal auditing/reporting purposes.



**Step 13.** Enter the credit card information. When you submit, you cannot cancel the order, so be sure that everything is correct before you continue.

**Step #14:** Print the receipt for your records.



The Order Status will then show the order number, details and production date.



The email address listed in the registration will receive an email confirming the charge to the credit card and when the mailing is sent out.